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UNCLAS THE HAGUE 002297

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SUBJECT: PASSENGER NAME RECORD DEMARCHE -- NETHERLANDS

REF: STATE 253041

¶1. Post delivered reftel demarche on Passenger Name Record (PNR) data to Andre van Wiggen and Robert van Embden of the MFA's Division of Transport (Personenverkeer) on September 9. Van Embden says the Dutch are working on answering our note, and he expects to have a "detailed" response to ref demarche during the week of September 15. Van Embden's office is leading a Dutch inter-agency process which involves the Ministries of Transport and Interior, and whose purposes are to study the implications of PNR and to develop the Netherlands' position.

¶2. Van Embden predicted that the European Council of Ministers transport committee will meet October 9 or 10 and it is likely that PNR/privacy issues will be on the agenda.

SOBEL